

## Kurds storm Turkish embassy in London

LONDON (AP) — Kurdish demonstrators broke into the Turkish embassy yesterday morning and caused "quite a lot of damage" before being arrested, police said. Commander Robert Marsh of Scotland Yard told reporters that about 40 demonstrators got into the embassy in Belgrave Square at about 11 a.m. "There is no evidence that anybody has been injured or killed," Commander Marsh said. Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency had reported that shots were heard. Commander Marsh said, however, that the demonstrators did "quite a lot of damage" in the building. "We have to sort out what they did in the embassy and who did it," before deciding up criminal charges, he said. Demonstrators emerged from the embassy holding their hands high, followed by police. The takeover ended at about 12:20 p.m. As police coped with the incident, about 10 demonstrators remained in the centre of the square. One carried a banner saying "Stop genocide in Kurdistan," and another said, "Turkey: Human rights black hole."

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## Bessmertnykh, Baker hold talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Soviet foreign minister discussed the strategic nuclear arms treaty for less than two hours on Friday and there was no word on whether they made any progress. A State Department press aide said Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh would return to the State Department about 3 p.m. (1900 GMT) and arrangements were being made so he and Mr. Baker could speak to reporters. At the start of their talks Thursday, the two ministers raised expectations that this would be the final round of negotiations on the strategic arms reduction treaty, called START. Its completion would let a summit meeting be scheduled in Moscow within a few weeks. Mr. Baker said Thursday he and Mr. Bessmertnykh also would "engage on other issues as well," as they would in a normal full ministerial meeting. "We've got a number of regional issues that we need to discuss — questions involving Iraq and compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions; questions involving the Middle East and our cooperative efforts to get a peace process going there; questions involving Yugoslavia and so forth."

# Government's 'traditional' policy statement unlikely to be crucial factor

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Taher Masri's government policy statement, presented to the Lower House Thursday, was either too "mild" or contained few new elements that are capable of swinging support for or away from the government in the House, according to deputies and politicians.

But while those critical of the statement maintain that it does not go far enough to bring needed change in the country and has left out important and specific details, cabinet ministers insist that the government programme was "honest, practical and unprecedented in its spirit of team work and in the speed with which it was prepared, and as such it deserves support from everybody."

Some deputies and politicians interviewed by the Jordan Times yesterday maintained that Mr. Masri's statement to the House was written in a traditional and general tone and failed to provide specific plans for dealing with the Kingdom's problems, especially poverty and unemployment. Others said the statement does not go far enough in meeting the vision embodied in the King's letter of appointment to the cabinet.

But "while it is true that the statement only provided headlines for the economic and social policies of the government," one cabinet minister said, "this does not mean that specific plans and policies did not exist or were not discussed by the cabinet."

"We did a lot of work and made headway on a great number of issues," the minister said. "Time will tell that this government's plan is more than a letter of intent, as some people are describing it," the minister added. "Beneath the headlines lies some solid work that has been achieved in record time (compared with other governments)."

Another cabinet minister said:

"We could not get more specific on any particular policy. If we did we would spend days on each section in the statement." He argued that many of the specifics will be provided in response to the deputies' demands and inquiries during the confidence session.

"We provided headlines stating that we intend to deal with this and the other issue. The deputies will ask us on the mechanisms and that is when we will reply in specifics."

While some deputies and politicians were divided on how detailed the policy statement could have been, others contended that the way it was presented was a tactic to avoid confrontation with the deputies over specifics. The ministers, however, denied that the statement was aimed at neutralising opposition by the deputies or appealing them.

"We were very honest and the statement embodies our goals



Taher Masri

and our direction," one minister said. "No tactics were needed or used," he said, adding that if "there was a real sense of justice among parliamentarians our performance so far would have been acknowledged as serious."

On the accusation that the policy statement failed to define this government's role in the

(Continued on page 5)

## Eyskens restates warning to Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens warned Israel Friday it would have close economic cooperation with Europe only if it established peace with its Arab neighbours.

"If you want the implementation of very close economic cooperation, you need peace," Mr. Eyskens told reporters after talks with Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. It was the second time this week a European envoy had warned Israel that its hopes for economic concessions from the European Community (EC) were linked to progress on Middle East peace.

"Although we could start negotiations on including Israel in a kind of European economic space, the total implementation of such a close cooperation is only possible provided the environment here is an environment of peace and cooperation with the other countries," Mr. Eyskens said.

Mr. Eyskens used as an example of cooperation the management of the arid region's limited water resources, saying solving shortages was impossible while Israel and Arab states remained in a formal state of war.

Israel opposes plans for a decision-making Middle East peace conference based on an exchange of land for peace and instead wants a largely ceremonial.

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## Prayers held for victims of Nigerian Haj plane crash

JEDDAH (AP) — Worshippers at public prayers Friday remembered the nearly 250 Nigerian Muslim pilgrims who died in a blazing plane crash along with a flight crew from Canada.

Saudi King Fahd, who described the tragedy as "God's will" in a cable to Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, ordered the cancellation of the season's top soccer match, which he was scheduled to attend.

People who die while on the Haj are considered martyrs. They are not supposed to be mourned, but remembered as those destined straight for heaven.

The passengers aboard the ill-fated plane had completed this year's Haj.

There was no indication whether the crucial flight data and cockpit voice recorders from the plane had been recovered by the Saudi civil aviation authority, which launched an investigation two hours after the crash early Thursday.

The Canadian-owned DC-8 jet nose-dived into the farmac and exploded in a fireball minutes after take-off, scattering the charred, broken bodies of the victims along the runway.

There were no survivors among at least 260 people aboard the plane, chartered by the Nigerian-based firm Holdrade to take the pilgrims home to Sokoto, Nigeria.

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## Algerian activists received external help — Ibrahimi

AMMAN (J.T.) — Algerian Foreign Minister Al Akhdar Al Ibrahimi said Friday he hoped that the Algerian government would be able to solve the country's problems, including the recent flare-up in Islamic fundamentalist unrest.

In an interview with Jordan Television's Arabic service, Mr. Ibrahimi said the first priority of the Algerian government was preparations for holding legislative elections in the quickest possible time in a manner that will satisfy the majority of the Algerian people.

Relations with the EC have frequently been strained over Israel's treatment of Palestinians during their 3-month-long uprising.

Israel is suspicious of the EC which it considers as biased against it.

Mr. Matutes' economic adviser, Marc Pierini, warned Wednesday the EC would deny Israel preferential trade status after 1992 unless it made peace with its Arab neighbours and the Palestinians.

Israel is negotiating its trade status after EC countries form a single market after 1992. Israel hopes to get benefits similar to the non-EC European countries belonging to European Free

Trade Organization.

Mr. Ibrahimi who arrived here Thursday, said that in the latest incidents which occurred in Algeria the Islamic fundamentalists received foreign help from outside Algeria, but did not name any country.

"There is no doubt that some of the elements of the Algerian organisations or parties held contacts with foreign sides; this is not a secret," he said.

Although there is no decisive evidence, there is information that affirms that weapons were smuggled into Algeria, he said.

Confessions were made by foreigners caught while smuggling arms to Algeria, he said.

Mr. Ibrahimi was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday. The two men discussed the Middle East and issues in the Arab World.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the Crown Prince and Mr. Ibrahimi discussed ways for stimulating international efforts to find peace in the region and reviewed Jordanian-Algerian cooperation in various fields.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdullah En-

gour.

Mr. Ibrahimi said he discussed during his visit to Lebanon the implementation of the Arab League-brokered Al Taif agreement.

He said one of the pact's stages includes spreading the power of the Lebanese forces over all of Lebanon.

"Unfortunately, our Palestinian and Lebanese brethren had a misunderstanding over this stage, but this was settled between them directly," he said.

Mr. Ibrahimi leaves Amman Saturday at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan.

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gour.

According to an internal memo of the league, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times, Iraqi, Jordanian, Syrian, Somali and Sudanese nationals as well as stateless Arabs (bedouins) with no travel documents — "Kuwaiti-born but of Iraqi origin whose destinations remain unknown" will be among those expelled.

Expatriate sources said in Amman that at least 20,000 of the expelled would be Jordanian passport holders, including permanent residents of the occupied West Bank who carry temporary Jordanian passports.

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies says the expelled people are left at the Kuwaiti border post at Abdali, from where they face a two-kilometre walk across the desert in temperatures soaring up to 55 degrees Centigrade.

Relief workers familiar with the terrain said it was almost impossible for the elderly and children to manage the two-kilometre walk, and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was trying to set up a transport system between Abdali and Sufwan.

Most of the people expected to be cast out of Kuwait are currently held at desert camps in the vicinity. Others are rounded up in Kuwait City.

Two batches of expelled Iraqis

and other nationals as well as stateless Arabs arrived in Sufwan last week. The deportations are scheduled to be in groups brought to Abdali every Tuesday and Saturday, according to the memo of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Expatriate sources said Jordanian passport holders were also expected to be flown out of Kuwait to Egypt and Syria.

While those holding Jordanian or any other travel documents do not face any serious problem, expatriates from the occupied Gaza Strip holding Egyptian documents confront a dilemma: Egypt has imposed a strict screening system before allowing them

## Kuwait to expel 50,000 to Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Kuwait will expel nearly 50,000 people of various nationalities and stateless Arabs in the next few weeks, according to international relief organisations.

The expulsions will be made across the border with Iraq and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is calling for voluntary help from non-governmental organisations to cope with the flood at the border town of Sufwan.

According to an internal memo of the league, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times, Iraqi, Jordanian, Syrian, Somali and Sudanese nationals as well as stateless Arabs (bedouins) with no travel documents — "Kuwaiti-born but of Iraqi origin whose destinations remain unknown" will be among those expelled.

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gour.

Prince Sadruddin told a news conference he would make the recommendation to the U.N. Sanctions Committee and said Iraq should be allowed to use its own resources to buy food and medicine.

He said it would be up to the Sanctions Committee to decide how this should be carried out.

Iraq has asked the United Nations to allow it to sell about \$1 billion worth of oil to buy desperately needed goods. It also wants foreign governments to free Iraqi assets frozen after the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

A number of foreign leaders, including U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister

(Continued on page 5)

## Talabani says talks with Saddam 'excellent'

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani

said Friday his meeting with President Saddam Hussein was "excellent" and cleared some obstacles to a Kurdish autonomy deal.

Mr. Talabani, one of the two main leaders of the revolt which flared in the Kurdish north after the Gulf war, met the Iraqi president on Thursday. "It was excellent," he told Reuters.

Asked whether the meeting had cleared some of the obstacles to agreement, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader replied: "I hope so. I think so."

Massoud Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), said the two sides were close to a deal.

"We have some new points to discuss with the government but I think we are very near to the agreement," he said. Mr. Barzani is leading the delegation of the

(Continued on page 5)

## U.N. team to recommend easing of sanctions on Iraq

John Major, said the sanctions should stay in place until Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is deposed.

Prince Sadruddin, compiling a report on the needs of Iraq and the impact of economic sanctions, said a way must be found to check that any money released was spent only on food and medicine.

"Iraqi funds must be used soon," he told the news conference.

The Sanctions Committee Thursday postponed action on the Iraqi request to sell oil (see page 2).

Sir John Moberley, a British expert on the region, warned that Iraqi civilians could face catastrophe if the international embargo was not relaxed.

"We can't avoid the conclusion that if there is no more money to spend, there will be much more

(Continued on page 5)

On the Occasion of Al-Hijra Year

ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

and to the Jordanian people its felicitations and most cordial wishes

# Middle East News

## Karami: Hostages' plight will end soon

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Omar Karami says he has information the plight of Western hostages held in Lebanon will end soon, according to an interview published Friday.

His interior minister, Major General Sami Khatib, said in a separate interview that the government is working to free them.

Asked during an interview with state television whether he saw any sign that the hostage problem would be resolved, Mr. Karami said: "Our information is that it's going to be soon. God willing."

The text of the interview was published in Beirut newspapers Friday. Mr. Karami did not elaborate and the interviewer did not press for further information during the Thursday night broadcast.

Gen. Khatib, in an interview published by the London-based *Lebanese magazine*, Al Hawadess, said: "We had nothing to do as a government with the hostage taking. True it happened on our territory but that was when the state was paralysed during the civil war."

"However, we are now responsible as far as exerting efforts to free those hostages is concerned. We are trying to help within this context," he said.

There are 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon: Six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

The longest held hostage is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, who was kidnapped in Beirut March 16, 1985. Gen. Khatib did not spell out the ways the government is trying to help, but said: "We believe the solution of the hostages' issue will serve Lebanon's interests and efforts to consolidate peace."

The government is trying to extend its authority throughout the country following an Arab League-brokered peace accord last December designed to end Lebanon's 16-year civil war.

The major civil war combatants, militias, have handed over their weapons and stopped fighting. The army is now disarming Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas in

## Iran: Arms control plan ambiguous, mysterious'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday that a U.S.-led plan for arms control in the Middle East was "ambiguous and mysterious."

He said in a prayer sermon at Tehran University that the plan "reinforces our worst suspicions" that only some countries in the region will be targeted for disarmament.

The cleric-president, his voice composed after breaking with emotion earlier as he recounted a historical religious anecdote, said that if the plan was "comprehensive, then we are ready."

He said, "when you disarm Israel, then we are ready to sit down and talk."

He said the United States could not justify singling out the Middle East for disarmament just because it was a volatile region.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the Balkans, Africa and Latin America are equally unstable.

Responding to an initiative by President George Bush to control arms sales in the Middle East, the world's five major arms suppliers met in Paris earlier this week, and agreed to exercise greater responsibility in arms sales to Middle East countries.

The two-day meeting involved the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

But Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, gave

the south.

But many factions, including the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim groups which are believed to be holding the Westerners, have not surrendered their weapons and are not known to be under the control of either the government or the 40,000 Syrian troops authorized by the Arab League to keep peace in the country.

The hostage-holding groups are believed to be operating under the wing of the fundamentalist Hizbullah, Iran's main Shi'ite ally in Lebanon.

Lebanese intelligence sources had said that all the captives were removed from Beirut before the Lebanese army took over the capital's control from disarmed militias.

The sources had said the hostages were whisked by their captors from former prisons in Beirut's southern slums to Hizbullah's strongholds in and around the town of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon.

The sources said the hostages were believed to be held in Baalbek's Sheikh Abdullah hilltop military barracks and others in the neighbouring hamlets of Nabi Sheet and Brital.

The government says it plans in September to disarm Hizbullah and some 3,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards dispatched to Lebanon after Israel's 1982 invasion.

"It is known to all around that neither the Lebanese state or government or the Lebanese people are responsible for the hostage issue," Mr. Karami said.

The reference to the hostages came up as the prime minister spoke of ways to revive tourism in Lebanon.

"Violence is over to no return in Lebanon," said Mr. Karami. "We assure foreign tourists that the forces of the state have become responsible for their protection."

Before the civil war broke out in 1975, Lebanon's beaches, ski resorts, posh nightclubs and gambling casinos were major tourist attractions in the Middle East.

## Sudan sees food gap close

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's information minister says reports of famine in his country are grossly exaggerated and the government is closing a "food gap" caused by three years of drought.

Abdullah Mohammad Ahmad told Reuters in an interview late on Thursday the Western press had distorted the famine issue and the government's perceived pro-Iraqi position on the Gulf war.

He said soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait reports began to appear in the West that nine million of Sudan's 26 million people faced famine because of drought and an eight-year civil war.

"I'm not going to dismiss the fact that there is a food gap but not to the extent that millions are dying. Until now I don't see these millions dying in Sudan," he said.

He said recent official visitors to the worst-hit areas of Darfur province, in western Sudan, had been struck by the abundance of price for the presence of their troops.

The meeting had been due to take place on July 9 but was unexpectedly postponed. Mr. Musa said some of the ministers had prior engagements.

Differences have arisen since the Arab allies first signed an agreement in March that Egyptian and Syrian troops should form the nucleus of an Arab

## 8 Arab states some way from Gulf security deal

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Friday the eight Arab states in the anti-Iraq coalition were still some way from agreement on a post-Gulf war security force.

The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are expected to meet in Kuwait Monday to discuss forming the force to fill the vacuum left by the withdrawal of Western forces.

"The question of security is important and dangerous and needs deep and careful studying," Mr. Musa told reporters.

"It could take two or three meetings because one must reach the best method of agreement, coordination and understanding for Gulf security and to give the chance for all countries to express their opinions."

Diplomats said some Gulf states do not want any non-Gulf Arab troops in the Gulf and prefer Western protection. Others have suggested amending the March agreement and sending Egyptian and Syrian troops to the Gulf only if a crisis should arise.

"There are ideas and thoughts which will be discussed during this meeting to come out with the best formula for Gulf security and to avoid what happened," Mr. Musa said, referring to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August.

The countries at one stage agreed on a 26,000-strong force with Cairo and Damascus contributing 3,000 men each.

Diplomats said Egypt had indicated that if Gulf states wanted to drop the provision that Egyptian and Syrian soldiers should form the nucleus of the force, it would agree.

Mr. Musa flew to Saudi Arabia Wednesday on a surprise one-day visit which diplomats said was aimed at sorting out Egypt's position ahead of Monday's meeting.

Mr. Musa's political leaders have begun to exercise tighter control on arms sales that once were left to the military and it is now believed unlikely Beijing would deliver missiles to Syria, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

Although the United States remains concerned about aspects of China's arms trade, the Chinese are reorganizing the way they approach this problem," said the official, who spoke with reporters on the condition that he not be identified.

Until recently, the Chinese military "with its budget significantly reduced, wanting to modernize, has had a reasonably unconstrained ability to try to go up and market its defence products around the world," the official said.

But "what we're seeing in recent months is an effort to change that pattern and bring their arms sales under much tighter political discipline," he said.

China's arms trade has become a matter of increasing concern in the U.S. Congress and is a factor in a widespread opposition on Capitol Hill to extending — without tough conditions — favourable trade benefits to China.

Recently, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker warned that Beijing's sale of weapons to the Middle East — specifically to Pakistan and Syria — could further damage what many view as an already shaky Sino-American relationship.

China's ambassador to the United States, Zhu Qizhen, two weeks ago admitted that his government supplied to Pakistan a limited number of short-range tactical missiles.

But it was unclear exactly what missile he referred to. U.S. officials said the administration has not yet determined if these missiles violated the limits of the 1987 Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

The MTCR was designed to curb the export of missiles capable of carrying nuclear-sized payloads more than 295 kilometres.

"Exactly what the range (of the missile sold to Pakistan) is, what the warhead is, how it relates to MTCR, what they are doing with Syria are all issues on the table and we are finding ourselves in a serious discussion on those issues," the senior U.S. official said.

The Chinese ambassador insisted Beijing had not sold any missile to Syria.

The senior U.S. official noted that China has a \$15 billion trade surplus with the United States that undoubtedly would suffer if missiles were sold to Syria and said such weapons sales would not begin to compensate for the trade loss.

Beyond that, this official argued that China, as one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, wants to be a player in global affairs and knows it can only do that by cooperating with the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and other leading countries.

Saudi-Chinese cooperation

Saudi Arabia and China will sign an agreement on economic and trade cooperation soon, a joint statement issued in Jeddah said.

The statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Thursday night, followed a three-day visit to the Saudi Red Sea port by Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng.

SPA said King Fahd had accepted an invitation to visit China at a time still to be fixed.

## China exercising tighter control on arms sales

WASHINGTON (R) — China's political leaders have begun to exercise tighter control on arms sales that once were left to the military and it is now believed unlikely Beijing would deliver missiles to Syria, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

Sanctions Committee Chairman Ambassador Peter Hohenfeller of Austria said that the 15-nation committee needs more information on the situation in Iraq to discuss the request. He said he expects the issue will be brought up next week after the committee receives a report from the U.N. special representative on the condition that he not be identified.

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Rushdie's 1989 book triggered widespread protest among Muslims who said it was blasphemous and insulted the Prophet Muhammad. Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued an order calling on Muslims to kill the Indian-born author.

Mr. Rushdie, who lives in Britain, has been in hiding under police guard ever since.

Prof. Igarashi undertook to translate "The Satanic Verses" even though big Japanese publishing houses refused to have anything to do with it.

"I accepted the translation of the novel because it had value as work of art," Prof. Igarashi said in a February, 1990 interview after a small publisher eventually put the book on sale in Japan.

He was under police surveillance for his own safety, he said in the interview. "I'm getting tired these days because police are always asking me where I'm going," Prof. Igarashi said.

Prof. Igarashi's translation has sold about 70,000 copies, an official of the Shinshu-Sha publishing house said Friday. His firm had no plans to step up security, he said.

"We had expected some kind of trouble. But we are very sad that a person we had worked with passed away so suddenly," the official said.

Officials at Tsukuba, one of Japan's biggest state-run universities with 12,000 teachers, students and staff, said they were shocked at the campus murder, which occurred during the two-month summer holidays.

"I was really shocked that such a thing could happen inside our quiet campus," a university official said.

## Sanctions panel defers decision on Iraqi oil sales

UNITED NATIONS (USA) — The Sanctions Committee has postponed any review of Baghdad's request to sell \$1.5 billion worth of oil until later this month.

Sanctions Committee Chairman Ambassador Peter Hohenfeller of Austria said that the 15-nation committee needs more information on the situation in Iraq to discuss the request. He said he expects the issue will be brought up next week after the committee receives a report from the U.N. special representative on the condition that he not be identified.

The United States and other

plan (Resolution 687) passed on April 3 stipulates that as Baghdad meets conditions for destroying weapons of mass destruction and other demands according to a set timetable, sanctions against Iraq will be lifted. The plan also calls for the establishment of a commission that will determine a mechanism for using some of Iraq's oil revenues to pay reparations to Kuwait.

The United States and other

countries oppose any changes in the sanctions regime until Iraq has made a thorough declaration of its gold and currency reserves.

U.S. officials have contended that Iraq's request is not about food but rather is a scheme to get back into the oil exporting business. They have pointed to the massive assistance programme launched by the United Nations and Iraq's ability to use its foreign assets and foreign exchange on hand as of last August 1 to buy food and medicine.

Some committee members also

are concerned that Iraq will try to divert the assets to purchase military supplies. They allege that about one million tonnes of food has been shipped to Iraq in recent months but that Baghdad has withheld supplies from Kurdish and Shiite areas.

Committee members have mentioned that an equitable food distribution system should be established before the U.N. eases sanctions. Prince Sadruddin also is expected to propose some terms for food distribution and for Iraqi oil sales under U.N. auspices.

The formal council ceasefire

## 'Satanic Verses' translator stabbed to death in Japan

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese scholar who translated Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" was stabbed to death on Friday, two years after Iran's Islamic authorities condemned the work and sentenced its author to death.

Mr. Rushdie's 1989 book triggered widespread protest among Muslims who said it was blasphemous and insulted the Prophet Muhammad. Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued an order calling on Muslims to kill the Indian-born author.

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## Seminar reviews role of human resources in an Islamic society

AMMAN — Participants in a seminar on "Development from an Islamic Perspective" discussed several working papers by prominent scholars dealing with human resources in an Islamic society.

One of the papers, by Abdul Haq Al Gazzal, underlined the fact that human resources constituted the basis for development because "human beings can properly handle wealth and material resources on a balanced and comprehensive basis." The paper urged Muslims to be pious and to offer generously to the poor through the zakat (alms to the poor).

Another scholar, Dr. Majeddein Kheir, presented a paper dealing with the habits of Muslims and their effect on development. The writer cited several social habits and said that economic development largely depended on the way people behaved and acted. In this sense, social and moral aspects have direct links with economic development, he said.

The writer also pointed out to the long periods of Western countries' domination of the Muslim World and said that it was during these periods that the West developed technology and improved its economy while the Islamic World remained backward, especially in technological fields.

Dr. Mahmoud Abdul Munem Afar read his paper, which focused on patterns of consumption, and cited a number of such patterns in the Islamic World.

The writer said that the Islamic World was overburdened by external foreign debts, "something that can be dealt with through adopting an Islamic economy."

According to Parliament member Issa Rimouni, Islamic unity has become essential under the present economic circumstances around the world. Mr. Rimouni said Muslims are now being asked to expand their markets and that Islamic governments and organisations should help achieve that goal so that further economic interaction can be achieved among Islamic states.

Columnist Fahed Al Fanek, commenting on the ongoing seminar, which was organised in Amman by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bayt Foundation) wondered whether Muslim scholars wanted the Muslim World to adopt a purely Islamic economy, different from the modern economy being taught to students in universities. He also asked whether the Muslim scholars wished to see the Islamic World adopt an economy totally separate from the modern economy of the world.

He said that even if Muslims wanted to do that they could never extricate their economy from the rest of the world's. "Neither can the Islamic banks succeed in functioning in total isolation from the world banking system," said Mr. Fanek.

The Al Ra'i columnist expressed hope that the participants in the seminar would draft a set of recommendations that could help the Muslim World launch specialised economic research programmes helping Muslims to catch up with the rest of the world.

## GUVS holds seminar on reducing consumption

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Sunday will hold a seminar on reducing consumption and ways of protecting consumers. The seminar, held in cooperation with the Jordanian Society for the Protection of the Consumers, will discuss among other things the role of the voluntary sector in reducing consumption, the consumption patterns prevailing in Jordan, and pricing and quality control policies. Taking part in the seminar will be most of the charities in the Kingdom, the Ministry of Supply, the Ministry of Health, the University of Jordan, the Jordanian Women's Federation as well as the Federation of Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

\* Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Naseem Anoush at the Spanish Cultural Centre.  
\*\* Embroidery exhibition at Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.  
\*\*\* Exhibition of stamp collection at the philatelic shop, Jabel Lewabdeh.



NEWLY WEDS LEAVE ON HONEYMOON: Newlywed His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Ibn Talal and his bride Princess Ghaida Hami Salam left Jordan Friday for an undisclosed location for their honeymoon. The wedding, which was held at Raghadan Palace, was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohamed and Crown Prince Hassan along with princes and princesses and other members of the Royal family. Also present at the ceremony were senior government officials, high ranking army officers, heads of diplomatic missions, the Salam family members and other invited guests.



## Libyan information minister praises relations with Jordan

TRIPOLI (Petra) — Libyan Information Minister Ali Abu Jazieh has praised Jordanian-Libyan relations describing them as fraternal, based on respect and mutual cooperation.

The minister said that Libyan markets were open to Jordanian products without limits or constraints, and pointed out that hundreds of Jordanian trucks cross the Egyptian borders to Libya as part of the exchange of products programme.

He added that his country was looking forward to holding agreements with Jordan on organising and enhancing such commercial exchanges.

The Jordanian delegation at the meeting comprised representatives of the Jordanian News Agency, Jordan Television and Broadcasting Corporation and the daily and weekly newspapers.

## Theatre festival winners honoured

By Vesna Masharqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first Jordanian theatre festival ended Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre in the presence of the Culture and Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki, minister's advisor Hani Snobar, Mrs. Leila Sharaf, a Senate member and the president of the festival's jury, the actors, artists, journalists and theatre goers.

Mr. Snobar, the president of the festival's supervising committee thanked all the participants for attaching importance to the event and presented the jury's evaluation of the performances. He expressed appreciation for the private sector which supported the festival financially and morally. Mr. Snobar mentioned con-

tributions by Mrs. Sharaf, Al Mashini family as well as a number of private companies and newspapers. The festival, he said, helped affirm the potential of the Jordanian theatre, distinguished outstanding talents and opened the door to new professional actors to assert themselves.

Dr. Karaki and Mrs. Sharaf handed the prizes to the contest winners.

The Honourable Prize Abdul Hameed Sharaf for directing was given to Director Khaled Al Tarifa for the play "The Wedding of the Weddings." The Ossama Al Mashini prizes were given for the best leading role to the actors Nasser Omar and Abdul Karim Kawasni and actress Amal Dabbas.

Jordan Television and Jordan Radio rewarded the best male supporting role. It was given to actors Esmat Farouq and Abdul Karim Khalaf.

The Jordanian Cinema and T.V. Production Company rewarded the best female supporting role, which was given to the actress Majd Al Qassas.

The Abdol Hamed Sharaf prizes for technical achievements (lighting, costumes, decoration, make-up) were granted to Nader Oumran.

The prize for the best script was not awarded with the explanation that the festival failed to give an original, creative and local text. The Petro-Chemical Industry Company will keep the reward for the next theatre festival.

At the closing ceremony of the festival, in the name of the culture minister, Dr. Snobar announced the foundation of the Jordanian National Theatre.



## Abdul Wahab Al Majali laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of Abdul Wahab Al Majali was laid to rest Friday in Al Yarout village in Karak Governorate.

His Majesty King Hussein was represented at the funeral by Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid. The ceremony was attended by senior officials and a large crowd of mourners.

Mr. Majali, who died in Amman Thursday, had served in a number of prominent posts, including that of deputy prime minister, minister of education and member of parliament.

Mr. Majali was born in Karak in 1924 and completed his secondary studies in Salt and Karak. Later, he obtained a university degree in law from Damascus University and worked as a lawyer.

After the funeral, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited Al Majali family in Al Yarout village to offer his condolences.

## Arab drug producers stress need for common market

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Assembly of the Arab Union of Producers of Medicine and Medical Supplies (AUPAM) Thursday held its annual meeting and discussed the Board of Directors' annual report and its current work plan.

The board's report emphasised the need for implementing a recommendation to set up a common Arab drug market which was adopted during the union's third symposium.

The symposium was held in Amman earlier this year under the theme of "Towards a Common Arab Drug Market."

AUPAM is currently implementing the points of agreement made during that symposium. The practical implementation of such points of agreement, to take place in two years, is

designed to standardise the criteria in all Arab drug factories.

The assembly also discussed means of updating the Arab Drug Directory, issued by AUPAM in 1990, and made preparations for introducing a standard Arab drug code. Other points of discussion at the meeting dealt with cooperation with similar unions and holding the union's fourth symposium in Amman in May 1992 under the theme "Transfer and Development of Drug Industries." The assembly also discussed the union's 1992 work plan.

AUPAM membership groups Jordan, Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Palestine as well as the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA).

## Murderer executed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 22-year-old man was executed Thursday morning for stabbing Mohammad Saleh Jarrar to death as the victim was trying to protect his house during a robbery.

The murderer, Khaled Abdal Qader Saoud, was hanged at Swaqa prison in the presence of the prosecutor general and the judges of the criminal court.

According to a report in Al Ra'i the murderer was trying to enter one of the flats in Mary Al Hamam with an accomplice when he was surprised by some people entering the building. The report said that the robbers fled to the

rooftop by way of the staircase as Mr. Jarrar, the flat owner, headed for the door to open it.

Discovering that he could not do so because it had been tampered with, he asked two of his sons to go on the roof and fetch some tools. On the roof, the sons found the robbers who immediately tried to run away.

After chasing and catching up with them, one stabbed Mr. Jarrar in the chest with a switch knife, causing his immediate death.

The police later arrived and were able to apprehend the murderer and his accomplice.

### MOURNING

Fatima and Ihsan Barnawi and the Nigerian Community in Jordan mourn with deep sorrow

the Nigerian victims of the plane crash

that took place near Jeddah on Thursday. May God bless their souls.

## Jordan marks new Hijra year

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with other Arab and Islamic countries, today celebrates the new Hijra year.

On the occasion, the Royal Court received a number of congratulatory cables for His Majesty King Hussein. Senders of the cables paid tribute to King Hussein for his continuing efforts to enhance Arab solidarity and unity in its ranks.

They also praised the national and pan-Arab stands of the King and his call on the Arab Nation to solve its differences and unite in order to face future challenges and safeguard Arab and Muslim unity.

The cables expressed gratitude and appreciation for the King's wise leadership and for providing an atmosphere of democracy.

The cables were sent by Prime Minister Taher Masri; the speakers of the Upper and Lower

Houses of Parliament; the Chief Islamic Justice; the Armed Forces chief of staff; directors of the public security, civil defence and general intelligence departments; the deputy mayor of Amman and representatives of various unions and organisations.

On the occasion, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will hold a religious ceremony in Amman after Al Asr prayers. Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Rae Najim will deliver a speech at the ceremony along with other Islamic scholars. The ministry has planned to hold similar ceremonies all over the Kingdom to mark the occasion.

The observance of the new Hijra year, all liquor stores, night clubs and bars are ordered closed Friday night and all day Saturday.

Government departments and public institutions are also closed.

## Statistics show heavy increase in crime rate

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 2,305 crimes were reported during last May, thus registering an increase of 382 crimes over May 1990 figures, according to a report issued by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The report, which is issued monthly, said that murders totalled 358, while minor crimes totalled 1,947. Thefts constituted 24.3 per cent of the total crimes, while those resulting in minor harm constituted 37.7 per cent of the total crimes.

The report noted that 81.4 per cent of the crimes committed during May were solved.

The report pointed out that Amman, where most of the crimes occurred, accounted for 96.5 crimes.

It was followed by Irbid with 509 crimes, Zarqa with 360 crimes, Balqa with 96 crimes, Aqaba with 89 crimes, Karak with 59 crimes, Badia with 65 crimes, Madaba with 49 crimes, Mafrqa with 46 crimes, Tafith with 24 and Maan with 43 crimes.

The report also included seven successful suicides and 28 attempts. Suicide attempts were attributed to family differences, mental diseases, failure in examinations, financial problems or emotional setbacks.

Fraud crimes totalled 40, of which 32 were solved, the report said.

The report said school children accounted for 11.8 per cent of the total number of people involved in these crimes.

Five premeditated murders occurred last May compared to 10 committed in May 1990, the report said. These crimes were committed, either defending honour, for family feuds and differences or for revenge.

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## The British Bank of the Middle East

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The British Bank of the Middle East continues its quest to expand its efficient services to the people of Jordan and is pleased to announce to its valued customers that the

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### Zerka Branch

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## Forward without inhibition

WITH THE law behind him and on his side, the prime minister, Mr. Taher Masri, could have governed for five or six months before submitting to a vote of confidence by the Lower House of Parliament. Instead, he has chosen to seek an immediate mandate from his colleagues in the House, putting to the test the popularity of his government and his own political future. What happens in Parliament during next week is crucial history in the making for Jordan, and upon it much of the political direction of the country will depend.

Through his government's policy statement to the House Thursday, Mr. Masri served notice that his government is not revolutionary, in the sense that it has not been formed to change the political equation at home, nor is it a cabinet intended for negotiations with Israel. "We are a continuation of previous administrations," he had told a group of journalists earlier. "We are not here to stage a coup d'état against any political group(s) in the country nor to jump into peace negotiations with Israel."

Whether assurances like these or programmes as those contained in the policy statement can assuage the fears of the Muslim Brotherhood and convert the opposition in Parliament to his side is yet to be seen. What is already abundantly clear, however, is that there will be intense political debate and maybe even many compromises before he gains the confidence of the House and the whole country.

His Majesty King Hussein's letter of appointment to the prime minister on June 19 made it plain that the time had come for liberal democrats to lead, based on clearly defined progressive and forward-looking programmes. But while the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues were still working on their policy statement over the past two weeks indications were that the Masri team intended to incorporate language that would appease the right-wing opposition in a bid to win their parliamentary votes. As it turned out, this seems to be exactly what happened, despite assurances from government spokesmen that the Thursday statement truly reflected the cabinet's "honest and practical" vision without any attempt to appease the opposition. Examples are replete in the policy statement where the government could have been more forceful and forthcoming whether on the political front or over its domestic agenda. Ironically, though, it seems to have been Mr. Masri's left-wing partners who have been calling for appeasement of the conservative elements, to the extent of urging him to include them in the cabinet, the "mild" policy statement which defined the government as neither liberal nor conservative nor anything else.

It is probably too early to pass a judgement of this magnitude on Mr. Masri's government as indeed only time can tell where it is heading. Our concern is about clarity of vision, albeit under difficult circumstances as these, and the necessary courage to effect change where it is most needed. Our motivation and hope is to see Jordan make progress, and to witness progress being made without inhibition.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily has launched a bitter attack on the United States president for his call on the two parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to offer concessions, calling such a move "An open invitation to the Israeli aggressors to hold on to the Arab lands." In his statement, President Bush had urged the Arabs and the Israelis to offer concessions, but this means that the Arabs have to give up their rights and stop demanding their lands back, the paper said. Such American policy does not differentiate between the aggressors and the victims or between those who are committed to the international legitimacy and those who reject it, said the paper. Mr. Bush's call on the Arabs to offer concessions so as to reach a settlement means a call on the Arab countries to give up part or all of their rights, the paper noted. It said that international legitimacy does not mean concessions or the giving up of territory so that a just settlement can be reached. International legitimacy and the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions constitute the basis for a settlement and not concessions on the part of the Arabs who are demanding their rights, the paper said. If the Arabs are to give up their rights, added the paper, they would be rewarding the Israelis for their aggression.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily called on representatives of Arab masses and organisations which held a general conference in Baghdad in May 1990, to voice support for Iraq and to take a speedy action to help end the current embargo on Iraq. Abdal Rahim Omar said that with every passing day the food and medicine situation in Iraq is further aggravated due to the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq despite the end of the Gulf war. The writer said that Iraq, the country which had supported all Arab countries in times of war and peace, is now in need of help so that its children and the sick will not die. The Americans are maintaining an embargo on Iraq and its people trying to starve them to death while Washington announces the lifting of an embargo on South Africa, the country that continues to exercise the racial policy of apartheid and violate its people's human rights, the writer pointed out. He said that the Americans are fighting the Iraqis with the Israeli hatred and are causing suffering to Iraqi children, women and old people. The Iraqi people, the writer said, need the help of their Arab brothers and the humanitarian organisations to end the embargo and save millions from death.

# Masri: Government is committed to institutionalising democracy; Jordan policy on peace remains unchanged

The following is the text of the main body of Prime Minister Taher Masri's policy statement to Parliament Thursday; and below is a summary of the government's domestic policies in different fields.

MY colleagues and myself in this government are glad to present to you the government policy statement hoping that God may help us pursue the process of democracy for the benefit of the country and the Jordanian people.

By presenting this policy statement to Parliament the government hereby announces its total commitment to the constitution in word and in spirit and considers the National Charter the vision for its future and the country's future.

The government strongly believes in integrity as a target and principle and declares its true commitment to the idea of the liberation of Jerusalem and in belonging to the nation and its immortal Islamic faith.

I must point out here that the country is still facing financial difficulties and that these difficulties were aggravated by the negative consequences of the Gulf war, the resulting inter-Arab relation and their negative impact on social, political and economic life in Jordan, a country which continues to shoulder its national commitments in facing Israel's aggression and the on-going pressures on our scarce resources.

This government realises the need for defending the nation and protecting its internal and external security and for this reason it can only voice its pride in the role of the Armed Forces and its keenness on making available all means required for its strength to remain a true shield defending the nation and guaranteeing its independence.

The Armed Forces will remain the vanguard of all Arab forces in the process of liberating the occupied territories and undertaking all other duties to ensure security and peace for the Arab Nation.

The government is also keen on maintaining a solid internal front which can be enhanced through stability, the supremacy of law and order, the protection of all citizens and their property, dignity and freedom within confines of the constitution and in an atmosphere characterised by mutual confidence between the security services and members of the public.

As the judiciary is one of the three independent pillars of democracy, the government stresses its absolute keenness on respecting its functions and promoting its work now that the measures have already been taken to repeal the martial law. The judicial system is now in need to be developed with new expertise and specialisation especially in delicate and technical issues, something which requires further training and modernisation of procedures.

The government realising the huge task required of the judicial authority and the grave responsibilities awaiting it, pledges to back the judiciary and its various courts by providing the required skilled and qualified staff.

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The government realises the complications of government routine and the weakness in public administration and, therefore, it will give this issue due care to boost public administration performance. This will affect the reclassification of public posts and job description methods. It will also reorganise the control and inspection systems, embark on a national data system and carry out training programmes for human resources so as to meet the requirements of the Jordanian labour market that requires graduates of colleges and universities.

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## Turks stripped of medals for drug use at Med. Games

ATHENS (AP) — Two Turkish weightlifters have been stripped of their gold medals at the Mediterranean Games for using banned drugs and could face lifetime suspensions from international competition.

Ali Eroglu tested positive for the anabolic steroid methandienone, said Claude Collard, head of the International Committee for the Mediterranean Games. He said Sunay Bulut was found to have used the stimulant ephedrine in a larger dose than allowed.

Eroglu won in the 90-kilogramme category and Bulut won in the 82.5-kilogramme category.

The Turkish Weightlifting Federation has suspended Eroglu for life, and Bulut's case is pending. Turkish officials said.

Their cases will be examined by the International Weightlifting Federation, Collard said. They could be suspended for life.

The weightlifters failed required urine tests several days after they competed. They were stripped of their medals after they

failed a second test.

Turkish weightlifting officials had returned home and were not available for comment.

Eroglu won two gold medals and a bronze. His gold medal in the combined event will go to Sarwat Bindary of Egypt. His gold in the snatch and bronze in the clean and jerk will be awarded to Hassan Kassi of Lebanon.

Bulut won three gold medals. The medal for the combined competitions and for the clean and jerk will go to Juan Carlos of Spain, and in the snatch to Rafaello Mancino of Italy.

Meanwhile, with only one more day to go, Italy continued its domination of the 11th Mediterranean Games Thursday by garnering medals in nearly all competitions.

The Italian team set a new Med. record of 3:03.20 in the men's 4 by 400, just breaking the 1979 record of 3:03.70. Othmane Belafat of Algeria broke the high jump record by leaping 2.28 metres, 2 centimetres higher than the 1983 record.

## 3 lead Tour de France in one day

LE HAVRE, France (AP) — The Tour de France lead changed three times in one day for the second time this year. Ironically, it involved the same three riders.

Thierry Marie, Greg Lemond and Rolf Sorensen all were leaders of the race Thursday as it went through a 161-mile (259-kilometres) leg from Arras in northern France to this port city. Marie ended up in first after the sixth stage by staging a long breakaway. He built up a 22-minute margin that was shaved to less than two minutes at the end.

Sorensen, who led since Sunday, was the overnight leader from Wednesday to Thursday morning. However, as expected, he did not start after breaking his collarbone in a fall in the fifth stage.

That gave Lemond the lead as the riders set out for the day's journey, though he refused to wear the leader's yellow jersey out of respect for Sorensen.

The day ended with Marie in the overall lead.

Lemond and the Netherlands' Erik Bruinkirk are early favourites. Bruinkirk won the next-to-last-day individual test last year. Lemond was fifth but that was enough to propel him over Italy's Claudio Chiappucci, good enough for his third Tour de France title.

Last Sunday, Marie started the day in front after winning Saturday.

## World Student Games opens Sunday

SHEDFIELD, England (R) — The World Student Games, its future once threatened by serious financial problems, opens Sunday with the possibility of world records from a crop of Olympic and world champions.

Britain's European javelin champion Steve Backley, who has twice held the world record, is arguably the most likely candidate among the student competitors to better a world mark.

Backley, having recovered from torn thigh muscles, was due to throw for the first time for two weeks at the London Grand Prix meeting Friday.

After sitting on the sidelines while his world record of 90.98 metres was twice broken earlier this year by Finn Seppo Ratty, defending Student Games champion Backley is eager to get back into competition.

He sees the games as a vitally important build-up to next month's World Championships in Tokyo, even more so after missing the European Cup.

"It wasn't easy sitting at home watching the European Cup on TV," said Backley.

Ratty threw 91.98 metres in May and then shattered the record in June with 96.96.

The purpose-built pool could also produce some record-breaking achievements with the powerful Chinese swimming squad holding the potential to go close in several distances. Their women's team includes three world champions plus two Olympic medalists.

Olympic 1,500 metres champion Peter Rono of Kenya and 200 metres bronze medalist Robson Da Silva of Brazil are the biggest drawcards on the track.

About 4,000 athletes will compete in 10 sports at the 16th Universiade — the second largest sporting event after the Olympics — and no-one will be more pleased to see the start of Sunday's opening ceremony than games director Ray Gridley.

She said the basketball team, which would have been among the favourites to win the gold medal, pulled out several weeks ago because of the cost of sending them.

Yugoslavia is only sending ten competitors and six officials compared with an estimated 40-strong party originally scheduled.

The ten will compete in athletics or in the swimming events.

Chinese insist on equality in bedroom

Bunk beds are out as far as China's World Student Games contingent are concerned.

When they checked into the games village the Chinese wanted them dismantled.

more of its competitors from the World Student Games because of financial problems and civil unrest at home.

Tournament spokesman Penny Dain said Yugoslav teams would not compete in the volleyball and waterpolo events and three gymnasts also would not take part in the games.

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Sales is scheduled to play next week in a tournament in Mahwah, New Jersey, an appearance that tournament officials say has been confirmed by her representatives.

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After winning last weekend's French Grand Prix at Magny-Cours, it was a perfect start to his home race for Mansell who still hopes to claw his back into the title race.

Austrian Gerhard Berger was second quickest in 1:23.045, narrowly ahead of McLaren team mate Ayrton Senna.

Qualifying was interrupted for 25 minutes when oil was apparently deposited on the circuit after Berger blew his Honda V12 engine.

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Mansell, driving a Williams, put in a typically bold performance in an interrupted opening qualifying session and set a best time early on of one minute 22.644 seconds.

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## Soviet parliament approves union treaty with recommendations

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament approved President Mikhail Gorbachev's union treaty in principle Friday, but introduced strong recommendations likely to cause trouble with the republican governments.

The assembly voted 307 to 11 with 18 abstentions to approve the draft treaty, the Kremlin leader's blueprint for a new, looser Soviet federation.

It instructed its representatives to be "guided" by various amendments to the draft. Mr. Gorbachev hammered out with leaders of the nine participating republics.

These included support for a direct federal tax and a directly-elected upper house of parliament, both certain to annoy Russia, the Ukraine and the other republics.

Mr. Gorbachev, keen to secure parliamentary approval for the treaty before next week's aid talks in London, was meeting parliamentary leaders.

Six of the 15 Soviet republics — Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Georgia, Moldova and Armenia — want outright independence and refuse to have anything to do with the treaty.

Mr. Gorbachev risks being squeezed between the other nine, all increasingly assertive republican governments, and the Supreme Soviet, a central parliament loath to cede its powers.

At the same time he wants to present a united front to leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) industrial countries on July 17 and 18, when he will be seeking Western aid and investment.

Friday's resolution was passed in principle, but could be

amended article-by-article later. The parliament was due to recess for the summer, however, at the end of the day.

The resolution said the treaty should be signed by Mr. Gorbachev and the parliamentary leaders, jointly representing the centre.

The resolution should also take into consideration the results of a referendum held in March which produced a large majority in favour of a continued union of states, it said.

This was apparently an attempt to retain the word "Socialist" in the country's official title, as it featured in the referendum question. The draft treaty renames the country Union of Soviet Sovereign Republics, bringing in "sovereign" for "Socialist".

The issue of a direct federal tax is one of the most awkward. The Kremlin wants the right to impose direct taxes on enterprises throughout the federation.

Both Boris Yeltsin's Russian Federation and the Ukraine, the two most powerful republics, insist that all federal tax revenue be funnelled through the republican governments.

The draft treaty also provides for the upper house of the new federal parliament, the Chamber of the Peoples, to be nominated by republican parliament.

Friday's resolution said it should be directly elected, like the lower house.

The parliament said autonomous regions, partially self-governing ethnic areas within the republics, should sign the treaty separately.

This would undermine the status of Mr. Yeltsin's Russian Feder-

ation, which includes almost all these regions. But the reference was slightly watered down in debate.

The parliament also appealed to the six breakaway republics to maintain good relations with the centre.

It passed a separate resolution urging them to "study the text of the union treaty and try to find ways of preserving friendly ties with the renovated federation."

In a separate development, Eduard Shevardnadze was elected chairman of a new reformed movement Thursday and given an insulting farewell from ex-comrades in the Communist Party.

The former foreign minister was chosen to head a four-man committee to organise a founding conference of the Movement for Democratic Reforms in September, the independent news agency Interfax reported.

Mr. Shevardnadze and eight other prominent reformers agreed last week to create the new organisation, following his statement that the country needed a loyal opposition to balance the Communists and create a "two-party state."

Four days later he quit the Communist Party, telling reporters his conscience tortured him after serving the party loyally for four decades.

The Communist Party Control Commission, which acts at the party disciplinarian, issued a statement Thursday blasting Mr. Shevardnadze's reason for quitting and condemning him for refusing to submit to its review of his statements.

"It is apparent that the motives prompting Eduard Shevardnadze to announce his resignation from the party were far-fetched," the commission said in a statement carried by the Soviet News Agency TASS and read on the evening TV newscast.

The commission defended its "invitation" to Mr. Shevardnadze to explain his intention to create the party, which many officials predict would precipitate a split in the 16.3-million-member ruling organization.

"Most probably, being unwilling to carry his own large share of responsibility for the party's present situation, Eduard Shevardnadze gave up active struggle for implementation of the C.P.S.U. policies and actually began to form its opposition in a new party."

Thus, Eduard Shevardnadze's announcement is the logical conclusion of a process of degeneration of his political views."

Meanwhile, one of Mr. Shevardnadze's co-signers in the new movement, Communist Party maverick Alexander Rutskoi, reportedly planned to announce formation of his own new party.

The Russian government-run Russian Information Agency quoted sources from Mr. Rutskoi's "Communists For Democracy" faction as saying Mr. Rutskoi intended to hold a founding conference before the scheduled July 25 meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee.

Mr. Rutskoi claims 3 million followers in the party. It was unclear how creation of his party would affect Mr. Shevardnadze's movement.

## Rao government seeks confidence vote

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao asked parliament Friday for a vote of confidence in his minority government, but winning it seemed the least of his worries.

Ahead lie myriad problems, including rejuvenating a near-bankrupt economy and controlling long-festering separatist movements in three states.

The 3-week-old government is expected to win the vote, since all parties agree the country cannot go through another gruelling and costly election.

The vote will be held Monday after Mr. Rao concludes the debate.

Mr. Rao's Congress Party and its allies control 245 votes, nine short of majority of the 507 occupied seats in the Lok Sabha.

Thirty-six seats are vacant in the 545-member Lower House. Two members are nominated and have no voting rights.

The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, controlling 121 seats, said it will vote against the one-line confidence motion that Mr. Rao submitted Friday.

But the National Front, a centre-left alliance led by former Prime Minister V.P. Singh which has 126 seats, said it will abstain, which would assure passage.

"I know my party is going to vote against you but I am sure your government is not going to fall," said Lal Krishna Advani.



P.V. Narasimha Rao

the leader of the Hindu fundamentalist Bharatiya Janata Party, or Indian People's Party (BJP).

Opening the debate on the motion, Mr. Advani attacked the government's approach to the separatist revolts by Muslims in Kashmir, Sikhs in Punjab and Assamese in the far eastern state of Assam.

He said the government sent "the wrong signal" to the secessionist forces by granting amnesty Monday to suspected militants jailed in Assam.

About 300 people were released in a bid to win freedom for 14 government officials being held hostage by the rebels since July 1. Two hostages were freed, and a Soviet technician who also was seized was killed while attempting to escape, the rebels

said. The legislation, approved

said. At the same time, Mr. Advani criticised the government's inability to secure the freedom of a senior oil company executive being held my Muslim rebels in Kashmir since June 28.

"What has happened until now doesn't instill great confidence in the government," Mr. Advani said.

Mr. Rao became the Congress leader after the May 21 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He took office June 21.

He inherited foreign exchange reserves hardly sufficient to cover one month's imports, and a foreign debt of nearly \$80 billion.

In his first two weeks, Mr. Rao devalued the Indian rupee by almost 20 per cent, apparently to induce the International Monetary Fund to grant loans of up to \$7 billion.

He also sold stocks of the nation's gold in the international market to earn about \$200 million.

The two moves drew sharp criticism from opposition members in parliament.

Mr. Rao and his top two cabinet ministers, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh and Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, also by law must win parliament seats in by-elections within the next five months to keep their jobs.

## Column

Robbers get away with \$17.3m in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Three men hijacked a security van at Hong Kong Airport Friday and escaped with the equivalent of over \$17.3 million in what police said was the largest cash robbery in the British colony. Police said the cash — \$17 million in U.S. currency and 3 million in Hong Kong dollars (\$384,615) — was being transferred by the Republic National Bank of New York to an affiliate bank in Taiwan. Police said the robbers, armed with what appeared to be pistols, ambushed four guards in the security van at the airport cargo terminal where they had been waiting to transfer the money onto a morning flight to Taipei. The guards were blindfolded and shoved into the rear of the van which was driven to a nearby construction site where the robbers transferred the money. They escaped in another van driven by an accomplice. The four guards managed to untie themselves and report the robbery, police said. They said none of the robbers was masked and no shots were fired. A police spokesman said it was the largest cash robbery in Hong Kong, far exceeding earlier robberies that averaged about 20 million Hong Kong dollars (\$2.5 million). An official of Republic National Bank, who declined to be identified, said the money was being transferred to Taiwan as part of a normal business transaction. He said it was insured and a reward of about \$1 million has been offered for the capture of the robbers and recovery of the money.

## Trump says luxury yacht sold

BOSTON (R) — Real estate mogul Donald Trump says he sold his luxury yacht, the Trump, Princess, for a tidy profit but a source close to the transaction says it was repossessed by a bank. The latest chapter of the embattled New York-based developer's financial woes began when the Boston Herald reported that the bank which financed his purchase took possession of the craft after he fell behind in payments. Boston Safe Deposit Trust Co declined comment on the report, citing its policy not to discuss clients' affairs. The Princess boasts five decks, a swimming pool, discotheque, gold-plated fixtures and a helicopter pad.

Gen. Harte, 27, will be freed but Donne Maguire, 24, Sean Hick, 30, and Paul Hughes, 27, will be kept in custody for extradition to Germany.

Mr. Harte was earlier sentenced to 18 years in jail by the same court for the murder of two Australian tourists. His conviction was quashed by an appeals court last week which also upheld the acquittal of the other three.

The IRA admitted killing lawyers Nick Spanos and Stephen Melrose in Roermond in May 1990 during a wave of IRA attacks in Europe. It said it must took them for off-duty British soldiers.

The court said there was insufficient legal or conclusive proof that the four had taken part in IRA activities and that they would not be convicted under Dutch law.

"It is not a question of whether they were members of the IRA but only of whether they took part in behaviour to execute the aims of the IRA. This has been insufficiently proven and the four should be acquitted," said Judge Ed Bakerns.

The retrial on the charge of membership of an illegal organisation was ordered by the appeals court after the court in Roermond originally declared the charge null and void.

It was unclear whether Mr. Harte would be released immediately at the court or after paperwork was completed at the jail where he has been held.

He has already been held in jail for over a year. Under Dutch legal practice he would not be held longer pending a possible prosecution appeal against the IRA membership charge, which carries a maximum penalty of five years.

A court official said Mr. Hick and Mr. Hughes would be extradited to Germany before July 31 where they are both wanted as suspects in the June 2, 1990 murder of British Major Michael Dillon Lee in front of his home in Dortmund and a bombing at British barracks near Hanover a month earlier.

Ms. Maguire is also wanted in Germany but will stay in Dutch detention until her appeal against extradition is heard by a Dutch Supreme Court, probably in September, according to Dutch officials.

## Bush to visit Japan to stress strong ties

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — U.S. President George Bush, shot down by the Japanese during World War II, plans to visit Japan just before the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbour.

"I think Japan has been a good partner in many, many ways. And we have a strong bilateral relationship that I believe this visit will enhance even further," he said Thursday.

Mr. Bush, a navy pilot who narrowly escaped death when shot down in 1944, told a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu it was critical for friendly ties to continue.

The approach of the 50th anniversary of Japan's Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour has heightened Japanese anxieties about the steadfastness of their chief protector and main trading partner.

Gen. Kaifu and his wife were overnight guests at Walker's Point, the president's seaside vacation home in this scenic New England resort.

Mr. Bush, who will also go to South Korea and Australia during the late November trip, said he was anxious to visit Japan to underscore the strength of relations between the United States and its main Asian ally.

"That is a very far-fetched statement ... that is already in the

## Ramos needs Aquino backing in poll race



Gen. Fidel Ramos

realm of fantasy," he snapped.

A reporter had asked him to comment on statements by right-wing army rebels that he helped to divide the military by favouring certain officers and failing to check corruption in the armed forces.

"You only have to look at the records, look at the facts," Gen. Ramos said.

"(The facts) say ... that I have led the Defence Department including the armed forces, in confronting and defeating coup attempts and preserving our democratic system. That's the record," he said.

## Dutch court acquits 4 Irish nationals

ROERMOND, Netherlands (R) — A Dutch court on Friday acquitted four Irish nationals of membership of an illegal organisation, the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Gen. Harte, 27, will be freed but Donne Maguire, 24, Sean Hick, 30, and Paul Hughes, 27, will be kept in custody for extradition to Germany.

Mr. Harte was earlier sentenced to 18 years in jail by the same court for the murder of two Australian tourists. His conviction was quashed by an appeals court last week which also upheld the acquittal of the other three.

The IRA admitted killing lawyers Nick Spanos and Stephen Melrose in Roermond in May 1990 during a wave of IRA attacks in Europe. It said it must took them for off-duty British soldiers.

The court said there was insufficient legal or conclusive proof that the four had taken part in IRA activities and that they would not be convicted under Dutch law.

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The retrial on the charge of membership of an illegal organisation was ordered by the appeals court after the court in Roermond originally declared the charge null and void.

It was unclear whether Mr. Harte would be released immediately at the court or after paperwork was completed at the jail where he has been held.

He has already been held in jail for over a year. Under Dutch legal practice he would not be held longer pending a possible prosecution appeal against the IRA membership charge, which carries a maximum penalty of five years.

A court official said Mr. Hick and Mr. Hughes would be extradited to Germany before July 31 where they are both wanted as suspects in the June 2, 1990 murder of British Major Michael Dillon Lee in front of his home in Dortmund and a bombing at British barracks near Hanover a month earlier.

Ms. Maguire is also wanted in Germany but will stay in Dutch detention until her appeal against extradition is heard by a Dutch Supreme Court, probably in September, according to Dutch officials.

## Eastern Europe makes hesitant progress towards press freedom

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eastern Europe's new democracies have made hesitant progress towards press freedom, with Poland and Hungary taking the biggest strides and Romania and Yugoslavia lagging, a U.S.-sponsored survey shows.

The International Media Fund survey showed that barriers to the free flow of information continue to exist nearly two years after the collapse of communism in the region.

"Almost everywhere, the print press has made the most notable progress," while "everything, the authorities in power seem determined to maintain a virtual monopoly over television," the International Media Fund reported.

In general, "the march toward media freedom has been slowed to a crawl," the report added.

But Romania and Yugoslavia "seem not to be enthralled with democracy itself, much less independent broadcasting and a truly free press," it said.

In Slovenia and Croatia, which have declared independence from the Yugoslav Federation, "the governments still try to control the media, but even when they do not, the journalists themselves

have only feebly begun to think of what press freedom really means."

It added that public opinion surveys in both Slovenia and Croatia showed that people believe "more in the government's right of access to the media than the public's right to hear opposition views."

New media laws under preparation in most of the countries contain numerous restrictions in contrast to the declaration of press freedom encoded in the U.S. constitution, it said.

"The new government of Slovenia approached the USIA several times to ask for assistance in drafting legislation to 'control the media,'" it said.

Other obstacles to press freedom include government control of national news agencies, newsprint, printing presses and periodical distribution networks.

The report described as "sick" the practice of monopoly distribution by Hungary's "inefficient" postal service.</p